

**El Bigote Cattle Co., L.L.C.
HCR 32, Box 25
Uvalde, Texas 78801-9700**

30 June 2005

Docket No. 05-015-1
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS
Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1238

Re: National Animal Identification System

To Whom It Should Concern:

Questions as proposed:

- 1) There should be no mandatory ID program. Should only apply to foreign imports.
- 2) Only foreign imported cattle should be ID'd at the border facilities by APHIS.
- 3) Tagging sites: See response to #1, or, at import facilities.
- 4) APHIS should report to USDA and appropriate state veterinary offices.
- 5) Age required as per USDA/APHIS/State vet labs.
- 6) Timelines: should be voluntary
- 7) All imported species should apply.
- 8) Voluntary reply forms could be submitted with brand inspections; e. g., as in New Mexico.
- 9) All info should be protected from disclosure.
- 10) Record keeping burden should be voluntary, not mandatory.

Five Area Comments:

- 1) If our government desires to burden us with an overall ID requirement, they (we, the taxpayers inevitably) should pay for the "voluntary" database.
- 2) Several; one for Mexico, one for Canada, and one for all other.
- 3) Voluntary system should be private.
- 4) Yes, voluntarily.
- 5) State level would be quicker response, maybe...

This is a political knee-jerk reaction to domestic animal production. Unlike chicken and pork, beef is the most inspected and regulated meat source available to the consuming public. Inspection and identification should be focused on all imported live and processed meats, both in the meat as well as canned, frozen, or whatever process applies. Domestic production should not be subject to burdensome and costly ID paper shuffling.

Sincerely yours,


A. S. Elliott

USDA ID PLAN

RECEIVED

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